

NNNNVT 252034ZRA394
 RR RUQMR
 DE RUENMO #3159 1442935
 ZNT CCCCC ZIE
 R 242034Z MAY 79
 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6667
 INFO RUHJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1977
 RUHJDE/AMEMBASSY DACCA 8355
 RUHJQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8964
 RUHJLE/AMEMBASSY KABUL 8589
 RUHJLC/AMCONSUL Leningrad 5997
 RUHJAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1443
 RUQMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 8147
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13157

E.O. 12865: RDS-1 5/24/99 (TOCN, "ALCOOL") OR-M
 TAGS: AT, PEPR, UR

SUBJECT: (C) REPORTED APPOINTMENT OF SOVIET DIPLOMAT AS
 DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO DRA

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AT MAY 22 QUADRIPARTITE MEETING, UK AMBASSADOR
 REPORTED THAT FORMER SOVIET DEPUTY PERMREP AT THE UN AND
 NOW AN OFFICIAL IN THE SOVIET MFA SECOND EUROPEAN DEPT.,
 EASILY STEPANOVICH SLYBONCHEN, WILL BE GOING TO KABUL
 AS A DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. WE
 ASSUME THAT, IN EFFECT, THIS DESIGNATION WILL MAKE HIM
 THE PERSONAL ADVISER TO H. AMIN.

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3. A PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT TOLD US MAY 24 THAT A PRC DIPLO-
MAT HAD MENTIONED TO HIM THAT SAFRONCHUK WILL BE GOING TO
KABUL, PERHAPS AS AMBASSADOR. PAK SOURCE SAID THAT,
ALTHOUGH SAFRONCHUK APPEARS TO HAVE HAD NO PREVIOUS AFGHAN
OR EVEN ASIAN-RELATED ASSIGNMENTS, HIS EMBASSY'S RECORDS
INDICATE THAT HE WAS IN KABUL ON AN OFFICIAL TRIP SHORTLY
BEFORE OR DURING THE APRIL 27, 1979, COUP. PAK SOURCE
STATED FURTHER THAT PAKS BELIEVE SAFRONCHUK HAS ICE
CONNECTIONS.

4. EMBASSY'S RELATIVELY BRIEF BIO ACCOUNT ON SAFRONCHUK
DESCRIBES HIM AS PRIMARILY A SPECIALIST ON UK AFFAIRS.
HE SERVED FOR THREE YEARS AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GHANA
(1969-71) BEFORE MOVING TO THE UN AS SOVIET DEPUTY
PERMANENT. HE APPARENTLY ALSO AT ONE TIME WAS PART OF THE
SOVIET REPRESENTATION ON THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE FAR EAST, AND HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY
THROUGHOUT THE FAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER BIO INFO ON
SAFRONCHUK THE DEPT. MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. *CON
BT
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